

App. No. 09/251,781

Amdt. Dated November 16, 2003 Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of October 16, 2003



## Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

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1 - 17 (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) In combination/a circular blade and a A blade holder for cutting machines, said blade holder comprising:

a blade head secured to a lowering device and comprising a blade head housing having a chamber;

said blade head having a blade holding member;

a circular blade retained in said blade holding member;

an advancing device mounted in said blade head housing;

said advancing device comprising an advancing piston rod and an advancing piston actuating said advancing piston rod;

said advancing piston rod acting on said blade holding member for moving the circular blade from a ready position into a cutting position, thereby overcoming the force of a return spring acting on said advancing piston rod to press said advancing piston rod into the ready position of the ¢ircular blade;

said advancing pistor actuated by a first pneumatic drive and mounted and guided in said chamber;

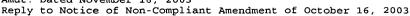
a pressing device for neutralizing the force of the return spring acting on the advancing piston rod dufing a cutting operation, said pressing device exclusively loading said return spring in a direction of the cutting position of the circular blade;

said pressing device decoupled from said advancing piston rod.

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- 19. (currently amended) A blade holder The combination according to claim 18, wherein said pressing device comprises a slide engaging said pressure spring device and disposed proximate to said advancing device and the circular blade, and further comprises a second pneumatic drive for actuating said slide.
- 20. (currently amended) The combination A blade holder according to claim 19, wherein said slide embraces externally the blade/head housing and is guided at the exterior side of said blade head housing.
- 21. (currently amended) The combination A blade holder according to claim 19, wherein said slide has a projection radially extending into said blade head housing, wherein said projection engages said pressure spring device positioned in a recess of said blade head housing.
- 22. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 19, wherein said slide is a slide piston arranged in said blade head housing and loaded by said pneumatic drive.
- 23. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 22, wherein said pressure spring is supported at an inner side of/said blade head hosing and is fastened to said slide piston, wherein said slide piston pretensions said advancing piston rod into the ready position of the circular blade
- 24. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 18, wherein said advancing piston is a diaphragm seated on said advancing piston rod, wherein said diaphragm rests in said chamber such that a circumference of said diaphragm seals against said blade head housing.
- (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 24, wherein said 25. diaphragm is embodied as a rolling diaphragm.
  - 26. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 24, comprising a pressure



sensor positioned between said diaphragm and said circular blade and measuring a cutting force acting at the circular blade.

- 27. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 26, wherein said pressure sensor is arranged between said diaphragm and a side of said chamber proximal to said actuating piston rod.
- 29. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 26, further comprising a damping member positioned between said diaphragm and said blade holding member.
- 30. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 29, wherein said damping member is arranged between said diaphragm and a projection of said advancing piston rod.
- 31. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 29, wherein said damping member is arranged between said pressure sensor and said projection of said advancing piston rod.
- 32. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 30, wherein said advancing piston rod has a longitudinal axis and is divided transversely to said longitudinal axis into rod sections, wherein said damping member is positioned between said rod sections.
- 33. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 30, wherein said damping member is a shaped body comprised of elastic material.
- 34. (Withdrawn) A blade holder according to claim 30, wherein said damping member is a spring.